Discovery of gas field in South Bassein

2677. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Bassein 'giant' gas field was discovered in 1977 but would be made use of around 1987; if so, the reasons for the delay in this regard; and

(b) what are the plans for the use of this gas and by when it is likely to be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) The first exploratory wells drilled in South Bassein field in 1976 indicated the presence of oil and gas and there were no traces of hydrogen sulphide (H_2S). However wells drilled in Panna in 1982 indicated the presence of H_2S; as Panna and Bassein are twin structures having fluid continuity, presence of H_2S in Panna field led to the possibility of Bassein Gas being sour. This was confirmed in 1983 and therefore it has been decided to set up a gas sweetening plant at Hazira for removal of H_2S in order to render this gas fit for use;

(b) Apart from the construction of the gas sweetening and sulphur recovery plants, a 1730—Km long pipelines is proposed to be laid to transport this gas, after it is brought onshore, to eventually meet the feedstock requirements of eight fertilizer plants and fuel requirements of two gas-based power plants being set up along the pipeline; it is also proposed to extract LPG from this gas at appropriate location along the pipeline.

Making Rajasthan skyline "smokeless"

2678. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the steps being taken by Govt. to make Rajasthan's skyline "smokeless" with the exploitation of non-conventional energy;

(b) whether the State has lagged behind in generating solar energy of which it has vast resources, if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken in this behalf; and

(c) whether Rajasthan has got vast potential in the field of wind energy; if so, the plan, if any, formulated to tap this energy?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Several programmes for ultilisation of non-conventional energy sources including promotion of Improved Chulhas, setting up of family type biogas plants, institutional/community type biogas plants solar thermal, solar photovoltaic and wind energy devices are under implementation in Rajasthan. During 1984-85, 1,35,000 improved chulhas and 14,713 family type biogas plants were installed in Rajasthan. 714 villages were made smokeless.

(b) Efforts are being made to step up utilisation of solar energy. 2447 solar cookers were sold and 18 solar water heating systems were installed in the State. In respect of solar photovoltaic systems, 6 water pumping systems, 5 Community lighting units and 80 street-lights have been supplied to the State.

(c) General wind speed data indicate that there is potential for utilising wind energy in the State particularly in Western Rajasthan, 50 wind pumps have already been installed for supply of drinking water and small scale irrigation. Wind monitoring is being continued to determine the potential for wind electricity generation.

Meeting held by ONGC at Gulmarg

2679. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission was recently held at Gulmarg (J&K);